

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05423 311559Z

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SUBJ: JURE BILIC ON THE CROATIAN EVENTS AND OTHER CURRENT ISSUES

1. SUMMARY: IN LONG INTERVIEW IN A PHILOSOPHICAL REVIEW EXCOM MEMBER JURE BILIC GAVE EYEWITNESS REPORT OF LCY'S STRUGGLE WITH CROATIAN NATIONALISTS 1971-72. WE HAVE EXTRACTED ONLY A FEW REPRESENTATIVE COMMENTS WHICH REVEAL INSIGHTS ON STRENGTH OF NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS AND WAY LCY DEALT WITH CHALLENGE TO TITO'S AUTHORITY. INTERVIEW IS WORTH READING IN ENTIRETY IN OCT 26-28 ISSUES OF TRANSLATION BULLETIN (BEING POUCHED ROUTINELY - INR), HOWEVER, AS INSTRUCTIVE HISTORY AND FOR COMMENTS BILIC MAKES ON CURRENT ISSUES. END SUMMARY

2. PHILOSOPHICAL BELGRADE STUDENT REVIEW IDEJE (NO. 1-2) CONTAINS INTERVIEW WITH LCY EXCOM MEMBER JURE BILIC PRIMARILY ON 1971-72 NATIONALIST EVENTS IN CROATIA. SINCE INTERVIEW IS TOO LONG AND DETAILED FOR EFFECTIVE SUMMARIZING, WE OFFER HERE ONLY A FEW OF HIS COMMENTS.

3. BILIC DESCRIBES GROWTH OF CROATIAN NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS AND FORMATION OF ORGANIZED MOVEMENT AROUND GROUP IN MATICA HRVATSKA (CROATIAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE) AND MIKO TRIPALO, SAVKA DABCEVIC-KUCAR AND OTHERS IN CROATIAN LEADERSHIP.

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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05423 311559Z

ACCORDING TO BILIC, MOVEMENT FIRST EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE

OF CROATIAN LANGUAGE THEN, CLAIMING IT HAD TO MEET CHALLENGE OF SERBIAN NATIONALISM, MOVED INTO MORE CHAUVINISTIC MANIFESTATIONS, E.G., DEMANDS FOR CROATIAN REPRESENTATION IN UN, ELIMINATION OF THE LC'S INFLUENCE, AND FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A DANUBIAN CONFEDERATION.

4. AS CHARACTERIZED BY BILIC, PRO-AND ANTI-TITO FORCES GRADUALLY BECAME LOCKED IN BITTER STRUGGLE, THE PRO-TITO FORCES BEING CONVINCED THAT CROATIA WAS AGAIN ON ROAD TO FASCISM. BILIC RECALLS OBSERVING ONE DEMONSTRATION WHEN STUDENTS EN ROUTE TO GRAVE OF CROATIAN NATIONAL HERO STJEPAN RADIC WERE CHANTING "ARISE, CROATIA IS CALLING YOU." OTHER ELEMENTS OF CROAT PEOPLE BESIDES DTUDENTS ALSO JOINED NATIONALISTS.

5. AT ONE POINT BILIC SAYS PRO FORCES DELAYED SQUARING ACCOUNTS WITH ANTIS BECAUSE TITO WAS OUT OF COUNTRY. AS PRO FORCES DALLIED, ANTIS DUBBED THEM "UNITARISTS", THREATENED TO SEND THEM TO GOLI OTOK (THE PRISON ISLAND) AND USE THE MILITIAL ON THEM. MEANWHILE, VLADIMIR BAKARIC (CURRENT STATE PRESIDENCY MEMBER FROM CORATIA) REGULARLY PROVIDED TITO WITH SITREPS. EVEN AFTER TWO SESSIONS WITH TITO AT KARADJORDJEVO (21ST AND 22ND SESSIONS OF PRESIDUM) CROATIAN LEADRRS ATTEMPTED TO FRUSTRATE TITO'S

DIRECTIVES, BEFORE THEY FINALLY ACCEPTED INEVITABILITY OF RESIGNING.

6. ASSESSING PRESENT SITUATION, BILIC SAID THERE ARE STILL ROOTS IN YUGOSLAV SOCIETY WHICH COULD ENCOURAGE REGROWTH OF NATIONALISM, FOR EXAMPLE, IF DECISIONS WERE IMPOSED WITHOUT TAKING INTERESTS OF ALL REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES INTO ACCOUNT.

7. TO QUESTION ON INEVITABILITY OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN CLY AND INTELLECUTAL MOVEMENTS, E.G., PRAXISTS, BILIC REPLIED THAT BOTH INTELLECTUAL STRIVING AND PRACTICAL ACTION ARE ESSENTIAL TO MARXISM, THAT CLASHES WITH INTELLECTUALS OCCUR ONLY WHEN THEY ABONDON SOCIALISM. ON RELIGION HE SAID CHURCH LEADERS WHO "SINNED" DURING WAR WERE HELD RESPONSIBLE LIKE OTHERS BUT HE DENIED PARTY NOW OR EVER WILL CONDUCT ANTI-RELIGIOUS CAMPAIGN. RATHER, HE CHARACTERIZED RELIGION AS ANACHRONISM WHICH PROLETARIAT WILL EVENTUALLY OUTGROW, BUT PRACTICE OF WHICH IS PEOPLE'S GUARANTEED RIGHT IN MEANTIME.

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PAGE 03 BELGRA 05423 311559Z

8. NOTING SPECULATIONS IN FOREIGN PRESS ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S RELATIONS WITH BLOCS, INTERVIEWER ASKED WHETHER ITS POLICIES IN THIS REGARD ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. BILIC RESPONDED THAT A CHANGE WOULD MEAN BETRAYAL OF REVOLUTION AND TITO. "OUR REVOLUTION WOULD NEVER PERMIT ITSELF TO DO THAT. THIS REVOLUTION IS CONSISTENT AND I AM CONFIDENT OF ITS VICTORY", BILIC CONCLUDED.

9. COMMENT: BILIC DRAWS A FASCINATING INSIDER'S PICTURE OF CROATIAN EVENTS WHICH OFFERS SOBERING INSIGHTS ON STRENGTH OF EXTANT NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS. INTERVIEW ALSO PROVIDES CLUE AS TO WHY BILIC, BAKARIC, SUVAR AND OTHERS REACTED SO FORCEFULLY TO RESURGENCE OF UNITARIST FACTION LAST SPRING WHICH THEY CHARGED WITH PLOTTING TO OUST THEM FROM POWER FOR BEING ASSOCIATED WITH CROATIAN EVENTS. AS ARTICULATE MEMBER OF PRESENT RULING ELITE, BILIC'S THOUGHTS ON CONTEMPORARY EVENTS ARE WORTH NOTING.  
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